

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 were previously pending in the application. Claims 3 and 11 are canceled and claims 1 and 9 are amended herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1-2, 4-10, and 12-20 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.


Claims 15-20 are allowed. In paragraph 2, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-6, 9, 12, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Deng. In paragraph 10, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Umeda. In paragraph 20, the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umeda in view of Chevallier. In paragraph 23, the Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umeda in view of Anderson. In paragraph 25, the Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umeda in view of Osozawa. In paragraph 27, the Examiner objected to claims 3 and 11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 1 is amended to include the recitations of claim 3 (now canceled). As such, amended claim 1 is equivalent to original claim 3 rewritten in independent form. Claim 9 is amended to include the recitations of claim 11 (now canceled). As such, amended claim 9 is equivalent to original claim 11 rewritten in independent form. Since original claims 3 and 11 were indicated as allowable, the Applicant submits that claims 1 and 9 are allowable over the prior art of record. Since claims 2, 4-8, 10, and 12-14 depend variously from claims 1 and 9, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable over the prior art of record. In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that the rejections of claims under §§ 102 and 103 have been overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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